

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Security Committee

SECOM-072

4 April 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Director, Intelligence Community Staff

FROM: [REDACTED]
Chairman

SUBJECT: Leaks

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1. At a recent SIS Officers' Course, [REDACTED] participated in a program on intelligence and the media. Among other things [REDACTED] assured the group that he has sources of classified information among CIA employees. He said he is sometimes assisted in spotting CIA sources by analysts in other departments and agencies who tell him who is dealing with specific issues or topics at CIA. He then calls up the CIA employees at home in the evening, and finds that some of them are willing to talk.

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2. This revelation, which we have no reason to doubt, is shocking. CIA regulations, security indoctrination, the very environment in which we live, all should leave no doubt in the minds of CIA employees that unauthorized chats with newsmen about classified information are a serious breach of trust. The lack of perception by personnel of other Intelligence Community elements in discussing who is doing what at CIA is equally distressing.

3. Security education efforts throughout the Community should be revised to incorporate warnings about the damage that can result from discussing classified information or even unclassified information about CIA business with the media. I will bring this matter to the attention of the Security Committee and its Security Awareness Subcommittee at their forthcoming meetings, with a request that people in their agencies be warned about these press tactics and the ill-advised responses that make them successful. If further action is desired, please advise.

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This Notice Expires 1 November 1984

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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12 April 1984

MEDIA LEAKS

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1. At a recent Agency training course for senior officers, a prominent journalist participated in a discussion on intelligence and the media. Among other things, he assured the group that he has sources of classified information among CIA employees. He said he is sometimes assisted in spotting CIA sources by analysts in other departments and agencies who tell him of individuals dealing with specific issues or topics within the Agency. He then calls the CIA employees at home in the evening and finds that some of them are willing to talk.

2. This revelation is shocking. Agency regulations, security indoctrinations, and the very environment in which we live leave no doubt in the minds of employees that unauthorized discussions with the media about classified information are a serious breach of security and trust of employment.

3. Employees are reminded that under the terms of [] Release of Agency Information to Representatives of the Public Information Media, all inquiries, whether official or unofficial, from representatives of the media must be referred to the Public Affairs Office. This policy is firm. Employees who are discovered violating this policy expose themselves to harsh administrative penalties, including termination of employment.

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Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director
for
Administration

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